

Strategic Objective 2.3: Increase Access to Quality Child Care and Early Childhood Education

NC Strategies:

- 2.3.1 Aid efforts to ensure all Appalachian students will arrive at school healthy and ready to learn.
- 2.3.2 Assist Appalachian communities in activities promoting early childhood education for all children, especially those at risk.
- 2.3.3 Work with the agencies throughout Western North Carolina to aid in filling service gaps for the children of Appalachia.
- 2.3.4 Increase access to preventive health care for children.

Strategic Objective 2.4: Increase Educational Attainment and Achievement

NC Strategies:

- 2.4.1 Assist Appalachian communities in achieving high education standards and eliciting parent and community involvement.
- 2.4.2 Assist Appalachian communities in activities promoting higher education standards that will aid in retaining students through graduation, in increasing post-secondary educational attainment, and/or involving citizens in their education systems.
- 2.4.3 Continue to support initiatives that will reduce school dropout rates.

Strategic Objective 2.5: Provide Access to Health-Care Professionals

NC Strategies:

- 2.5.1 Increase the availability of primary care and/or obstetric services, especially in Western North Carolina's Health Professionals Shortage Areas (HPSAs).
- 2.5.2 Promote the testing of new concepts and the replication of models that increase access to affordable, quality health care.
- 2.5.3 Work with the Office of Rural Health and Resource Development in locating health care professionals, with an emphasis on aiding primary care HPSAs, in Western North Carolina (using the J-1 program and other resources).
- 2.5.4 Work with the agencies throughout Western North Carolina to aid in filling service gaps for the children of Appalachia.
- 2.5.5 Work with the Office of Rural Health and Appalachian communities in filling provider gaps that limit access to quality care.
- 2.5.6 Encourage the establishment of partnerships and innovative arrangements among health care providers in order to assure quality health care resources.